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and makes it possible to include the whole 8839 names and some 24,000 references on 180 octavo pages.

A casual glance over the pages does not disclose any typographical errors and we have been able to find only one omission. The real test of course must come from actual use, but the general appearance of the list indicates a very careful piece of work.

A recent letter from the author states that his editorial duties seriously interfere with his ornithological research work, but if his time and opportunities permit only of the preparation of such valuable compilations as the one before us he need have no fear of being charged with neglecting his favorite science. Anyone who has had experience with the dreary monotony of compiling a list or index will fully appreciate the labor involved in Mr. McGregor's modest publication and will recognize the indebtedness that all those interested in systematic ornithology must feel toward him for his helpful work. McGregor's 'Index' will henceforth take the place of the familiar 'Waterhouse' and the fact that a publication of this sort bears the imprint of Manila is a tribute to the good judgment of those who direct the Philippine Bureau of Science.—W. S.

**Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds.'**<sup>2</sup>—The appearance of a bulky double part 7-8, on April 8, completes the first volume of this admirable work. The birds treated cover the Thrushes and their allies, the Wrens, the Dippers and the Swallows, while two half-tone plates illustrate the juvenal plumages of the first of these families and a third depicts the several geographic races of the Wren and the Dipper.

The genus *Nannus* is regarded as not separable from *Troglodytes* and our American Winter Wren and Barn Swallow are regarded as subspecies of their European representatives instead of distinct species.

The work lives up to the high standard established by the first part and volume one is completed before the time set by the publishers, on both of which accomplishments they are to be congratulated.—W. S.

**Hartert's 'Die Vogel der palaarktischen Fauna.'**—The present part of Dr. Hartert's famous work covers the Ibises, Herons, Flamingos and Ducks and Geese. The treatment is the same as in the preceding parts and the same high standard is maintained. We notice in the nomenclature certain practices which differ from those of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' The genera *Herodias* and *Egretta* for instance are united, as are also *Anas*, *Nettion*, *Querquedula*, *Chaulelasmus*, *Mareca* and *Dafila*, while

<sup>1</sup> Index to the Genera of Birds. By Richard C. McGregor. Manila, Bureau of Printing, 1920, pp. 1-185. (Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Publication 14, March 31, 1920.)

<sup>2</sup> A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. Parts 7-8, April 8, 1920. Price 4s. net per part. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. I.